

HOJ Article Discussion Checklist

Student Name:

Teacher Name:

Meeting Time + Date:

The student should reference the following content:

-The Green Line (1948)

-The 6-day war

-“The two state solution”/ “The peace process”

-Israel/ Palestine

-West Bank

-Settlements

-Benjamin Netanyahu

Check List

Was the student able to describe the excerpt? Y/N

Was the student able to describe graphics? Y/N

Did the student discuss the connection between the graphics and the text they selected? Y/N

Was the student able to clearly describe the relevant historical events (listed above)? Y/N

Did the student articulate multiple perspectives about a single issue? Y/ N

Did the student demonstrate that she still has some questions? Y/N

Briefly mention the strengths of her articulation and a weakness of her answer:

Other comments:

Activity: Please have a conversation with the student about excerpts and images from the article. The conversation should not be longer than 20-30 minutes. Although the topic merits lots of time, I want the students to discuss their ideas and questions concisely. You may use these questions to guide your discussion.

Sample questions to ask:

- *1) What is a settlement? Where are they located?
- 2) *a. Who is Benjamin Netanyahu?
b. What is his relationship to settlements in the West Bank?
- *3) What is the Israeli government's perspective about settlements?
- *4) What would the UN say? What is the general international opinion about settlements?
- 5) Who lives in settlements?
- 6) How do settlements impact the peace process?
- 7) What is your opinion of settlements?
- 8) Why did you choose the images you chose? How do they relate to the text? Why do you think the authors chose these graphics?

Note: Question 2b and Question 5 and 6 have multiple correct answers. Question 7 and 8 and have many answers. The other questions (1, 3, 4) have a “correct” answer. They are marked with an Asterix. If you are unsure of a particular point, please email me following the conversation for clarification. My request is that you have a discussion with the student even if it seems they do not have a complete grasp on the topic at hand.

The West Bank is 2,100 square miles of rolling hills, dotted by some 200 Jewish settlements surrounded by security fences.

2b

“An analysis of planning, construction, population and spending data over the past two decades shows that Mr. Netanyahu was an aggressive builder during his first premiership in the 1990s, when the West Bank settler population rose at roughly three times the total Israeli rate.

But since returning to Israel’s helm in 2009, Mr. Netanyahu has logged a record similar to the less-conservative leaders sandwiched between, with those settlements swelling about twice as fast as Israel overall.”

“I do not intend to evacuate any settlements.” He has taken more heat over settlements than his predecessors, analysts said, in part because of his broader intransigence on the Palestinian issue and the use of construction as a retaliatory tool.

But Mr. Netanyahu is also a focus of international ire because of the cumulative effect of decades of settlement growth”

“First elected in 1996 on a [promise](#) to reverse a four-year freeze on settlement expansion in all but a few areas, Mr. Netanyahu endorsed the concept of two states for two peoples upon regaining Israel’s top job in 2009, saying in his famous [Bar Ilan speech](#): “We have no intention of building new settlements or of expropriating additional land for existing settlements.”

Mr. Netanyahu now explains his building initiatives as an inevitable accommodation to natural growth and says they have not materially affected the map, only added, as he put it, “a few houses in existing communities.” He rebuts any suggestion that settlements are the core of the conflict, noting that Arabs and Jews were fighting in this land long before they existed.”

“The settlers themselves hardly see Mr. Netanyahu as a savior. His recent sojourn to Eli was to beat back a challenge from the rightist Jewish Home party, which won 71 percent of Eli’s votes in the 2013 election, compared with 13 percent for Mr. Netanyahu’s ticket. Settlers felt betrayed by his acquiescence, in 2009, to the Obama administration’s demand for a [10-month settlement freeze](#). Despite the drumbeat of settlement announcements that have outraged the world in the last two years, they complain that new plans have not advanced during that time.

Dani Dayan, a leader of the settler council, said Mr. Netanyahu sees settlements as “a tool of policy,” not as a matter of principle, and has “good intentions” but “doesn’t always translate them into acts.””

Back in 2005, the [Israeli government itself identified about 100 outposts](#), including Bruchin, that had been established illegally. Since 2011, 19 of them have obtained government approval. (The rest are considered Legal)

4+ 6

“Steady growth of settlements across the occupied [West Bank](#) and East Jerusalem, which most world leaders consider violations of international law, complicates both the creation of a viable Palestine and the challenge of someday uprooting Israelis, who are now raising a second and third generation in contested areas.”